



# SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

NOVEMBER EDITION

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## City of Seat Pleasant

### Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

### Council President

Latasha Gatling

(At Large Councilmember)

### Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

### Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

### Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

### Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

### Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

### AT Large Council member

Kelly Porter

### Acting City Administrator

#### Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

### Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

### Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

### City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham



## A WORD FROM THE MAYOR

President Barack Obama once stated, "We need to internalize this idea of excellence. Not many folks spend a lot of time trying to be excellent." As many of you are aware, the mantra for Seat Pleasant is "A City of Excellence." The leadership of this city has set a vision for us to be Excellent. In all that we think, say and do should be hallmarks of excellence. Our life's values should be the apotheosis of Excellence.

A key ingredient of being excellent is EDUCATION. As we celebrate Education Week this month we should strive to encourage all aspects of learning. Whether that learning is in a school, college, university, trade, apprentice program or independent study we [the people] of Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence must promote the advancement of knowledge – education.

If our children – the children of Seat Pleasant – are to reach their potential education must be a part of the equation. If our children are to be competitive in the global workforce they must be prepared to meet the challenges that await them. As our children leave our community we want people to notice that these are young people that come from a community that embraces education, encourages great thinking and energizes its youth to excel. We want the world to take note that our children are prepared for the endless and tremendous opportunities that are provided every day.

Malcolm X once said, "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." It is incumbent upon us to show our children the intrinsic value of an education. They must be taught that the future is full of rewarding promises if they prepare themselves today for it. Our children must grow up in a culture of achievement that helps propel them into the stratosphere of success.

To that end, we must provide books over CD's, PBS over ESPN, trips to the library or book store over the movies or Dave and Buster's. Our home's should be a place that promotes education and become a place that they can study. We must expose our children to museums, cultural centers and historical sites. Our children must be taught that education can be entertaining, rewarding and liberating.

In conclusion, let's encourage all of our young people to go to school and get their education. If you see a child, ask them about school and encourage them to do well. A kind and encouraging word will go a long way. Let us keep in remembrance our desire to be excellent. If we the people of Seat Pleasant work to promote education we will be continuing on the path of becoming A City of Excellence.

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## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

The City Council passed the following legislations in the month of October

Ordinance O-11-02 Authorize School Zone Speed Camera Monitoring System

Ordinance O-11-03 Authorize School Zone Speed Camera Monitoring System Fees

Resolution R-11-04 Approval of Service Agreement for School Zone Speed Camera Monitoring System with Optotrafic

Resolution R-11-05 Resolution R-11-05 Reinstate Shared State Revenues to Highway User Fund and Police Aid

Resolution R-11-06 Competitive Bid Exemption of School Zone Speed Monitoring System

Copies of the legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk.

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## "CITY TOY DRIVE

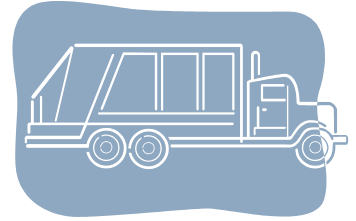
The City Council is sponsoring a toy drive for children in a local shelter. Please consider donating a new toy for a boy or girl ages infant to 10 years old. Help brighten the lives of needy children this Christmas. Donations must be in by December 10, 2010. Please call City Hall for more information or if your donation needs to be picked up.



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## **PROPOSED REROUTING OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES COMING TO THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT**

Please contact the office of the City Clerk at 301-336-2600 for more information.



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### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT WHAT ARE YOU DOING (Part II) By Councilmember Reveral Yeargin**

My prayer is that you maximize your limited time down here on this earth!

You have been given a number at birth and by God you have a purpose on this earth!

There is a thin line between riches and poverty, close your eyes and imagine yourself being a wealthy person

Your plans should push you into your purpose and your purpose should open doors to your success in this life

Has nobody ever inspired you to climb a mountain? Well, this is it, so get to stepping!

Before you take another step you should think about what it will mean and more importantly, what it will cost.

There are many people who cannot visualize seeing themselves reaching the top of the mountain

Remember this, everything will cost you something even if you decide to live on the bottom!

Be somebody before you die and never let anybody define your purpose in this life!

I truly hope you don't think that I am a joke because jokers cannot measure up to the thoughts that I think!

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## **SEAT PLEASANT'S SENIOR GREEN PROGRAM**

The City of Seat Pleasant is now accepting applications for its Senior Green Program that gives residents the opportunity to make their homes energy efficient at no cost to the homeowner. Those homeowners selected will receive an energy audit conducted on their home. After which, the homeowner will receive a grant of up to \$6,000 towards energy efficiency repairs.

If you are over the age of 60, own your own home and meet basic income requirements, you may be eligible to participate in this program. Applications are now available at City Hall, 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland, but must be returned by November 29th. For questions or to request an application, contact Jane Talbert at 301-336-2600. Applicants will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.



## ANNUITIES VS CD'S (Part III)

by Robert Ashton



### Annuities vs CDs

The question of where to place one's money is an issue that investors deal with on a daily basis. One of the typical discussions involves should I go with annuities or CDs?

#### Investors Drawn to Annuities

Annuities, financial products that are typically offered through insurance companies, guarantee the annuitant an assured stream of income for a lifetime or up to the time of a pre-agreed annuity expiration date. With some kinds of annuities, the investor makes regularly scheduled payments to the insurance company, with the insurer in turn investing that sum on their behalf. The annuitant is then paid a lump-sum at the time the annuity matures.

CDs (Certificates of Deposit) involves the holder depositing a portion of money with a financial institution for a set period of time, whereby they withdraw the amount invested, plus the interest it has earned. While the earnings with CDs are generally higher than usual savings and can be withdrawn on demand, there are a number of areas where CDs come up short side-by-side with annuities:

- Annuities typically offer greater returns than CDs.
- Annuities provide a steady stream of income for one's lifetime, something not available with CDs.
- If one chooses to cash a CD prior to its maturity, they are oftentimes open to costly penalties. Most annuities will charge a "surrender fee" in the event the annuitant chooses to prematurely leave the annuity agreement.
- Annuities have a tax-deferral feature, CDs do not.
- Annuities are great investments for retirement and those searching to lock in longer-term rates.
- With annuities, you can withdraw for necessary minimum distributions penalty free.
- Annuities allow you to avoid probate costs and delays.

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## A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT

In October, the Seat Pleasant Police Department received two grants from the US Department of Justice . The first one was the Bullet Proof Vest Partnership Grant, \$11,600, to purchase bullet proof vests for members of the Department; and the second was the American Reinvestment & Recovery Grant, \$26,175, for hiring of intern personnel. The City continues to seeking funding sources to address the needs of the police department.

In an effort to become more accessible to residents, Samuel Prue, Chief of the Police Department, will soon be hosting "Chat with the Chief" at the Seat Pleasant Activity Center in the evening. The focus of these meetings will be to provide valuable information to residents. The first projected meeting will be November 24th. For information contact the Seat Pleasant Police Department at 301-499-8700.

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## A WORD FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

### NOTICE TO ALL HOMEOWNERS:

Chapter 107-4 of the Seat Pleasant City Code requires all rental properties within the City to obtain a rental permit. The owner must also acquire a Use and Occupancy permit from the County. If you are renting your home, please be sure to comply with these requirements. If you have any questions, contact the Code Enforcement Officer at 301-499-8700.

## PREPARING FOR WINTER WEATHER

Winter weather will soon be upon us and some have predicted a harsh winter. Here are some tips to help you navigate winter storms taken from the FEMA website:

### Step 1: Get a Kit

Get an Emergency Supply Kit which includes items like non-perishable food, water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra flashlights and batteries. Thoroughly check and update your family's Emergency Supply Kit before winter approaches and add the following supplies in preparation for winter weather:

- **Rock salt** to melt ice on walkways
- **Sand** to improve traction
- **Snow shovels** and other snow removal equipment.
- Also include **adequate clothing and blankets** to keep you warm.

### Step 2: Make a Plan

#### Prepare Your Family

Make a Family Emergency Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.

- Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood.
- It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.
- You may also want to inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: work, daycare and school. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one.

### Step 3: Be Informed

#### Prepare Your Home

- Make sure your home is well insulated and that you have weather stripping around your doors and windowsills to keep the warm air inside.
- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
- Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.
- Hire a contractor to check the structural stability of the roof to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow - or water, if drains on flat roofs do not work.
- If you have a car, fill the gas tank in case you have to leave. In addition, check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:
  - Antifreeze levels - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
  - Battery and ignition system - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
  - Brakes - check for wear and fluid levels.
  - Exhaust system - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. **Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.**
  - Fuel and air filters - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas.
  - Heater and defroster - ensure they work properly.
  - Lights and flashing hazard lights - check for serviceability.
  - Oil - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.
  - Thermostat - ensure it works properly.
  - Tires - make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.

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(WINTER WEATHER CONTINUED )

- Windshield wiper equipment - repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.

**Familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify winter weather**

- **Freezing Rain** creates a coating of ice on roads and walkways.
- **Sleet** is rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes roads to freeze and become slippery.
- **Winter Weather Advisory** means cold, ice and snow are expected.
- **Winter Storm Watch** means severe weather such as heavy snow or ice is possible in the next day or two.
- **Winter Storm Warning** means severe winter conditions have begun or will begin very soon.
- **Blizzard Warning** means heavy snow and strong winds will produce a blinding snow, near zero visibility, deep drifts and life-threatening wind chill.
- **Frost/Freeze Warning** means below freezing temperatures are expected.
- When a **Winter Storm WATCH** is issued listen to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio, and television stations, or cable television such as The Weather Channel for further updates. Be alert to changing weather conditions. Avoid unnecessary travel
- When a **Winter Storm WARNING** is issued Stay indoors during the storm. If you must go outside, several layers of lightweight clothing will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat. Gloves (or mittens) and a hat will prevent loss of body heat. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs. Walk carefully on snowy, icy, walkways.
- If the pipes freeze, remove any insulation or layers of newspapers and wrap pipes in rags. Completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold (or where the cold was most likely to penetrate).
- Maintain ventilation when using kerosene heaters to avoid build-up of toxic fumes. Refuel kerosene heaters outside and keep them at least three feet from flammable objects.
- Avoid traveling by car in a storm, but if you must..
- Carry an Emergency Supply kit in the trunk.
- Keep your car's gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive. If your car gets stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route.
- Eat regularly and drink ample fluids, but avoid caffeine and alcohol.
- Conserve fuel, if necessary, by keeping your residence cooler than normal. Temporarily close off heat to some rooms.

For further information on how to plan and prepare for winter storms as well as what to do during and after a winter storm, visit: [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#), [NOAA Watch](#), or [American Red Cross](#).

**Tips for Shoveling Snow Be heart healthy and back friendly while shoveling this winter with these tips:**

- If you are inactive and have a history of heart trouble, talk to your doctor before you take on the task of shoveling snow.
- Avoid caffeine or nicotine before beginning. These are stimulants, which may increase your heart rate and cause your blood vessels to constrict. This places extra stress on the heart.
- Drink plenty of water. Dehydration is just as big an issue in cold winter months as it is in the summer.
- Dress in several layers so you can remove a layer as needed.
- Warm up your muscles before shoveling, by walking for a few minutes or marching in place. Stretch the muscles in your arms and legs, because warm muscles will work more efficiently and be less likely to be injured.
- Pick the right shovel for you. A smaller blade will require you to lift less snow, putting less strain on your body.
- Begin shoveling slowly to avoid placing a sudden demand on your heart. Pace yourself and take breaks as needed.
- Protect your back from injury by lifting correctly.

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(winter weather continued)

- Stand with your feet about hip width for balance and keep the shovel close to your body. Bend from the knees (not the back) and tighten your stomach muscles as you lift the snow. Avoid twisting movements. If you need to move the snow to one side reposition your feet to face the direction the snow will be going.
- Most importantly — listen to your body. Stop if you feel pain!
- Do not shovel snow from cars and sidewalks **back into the street**, especially after streets have been treated by Public Works personnel. The snow tends to form ice and create icy and hazardous conditions and slows street cleaning efforts.
- If there is a severe storm as was experienced last year, if you do not have to go out please stay home. Last year stranded cars blocked streets and prevented emergency equipment from getting through.

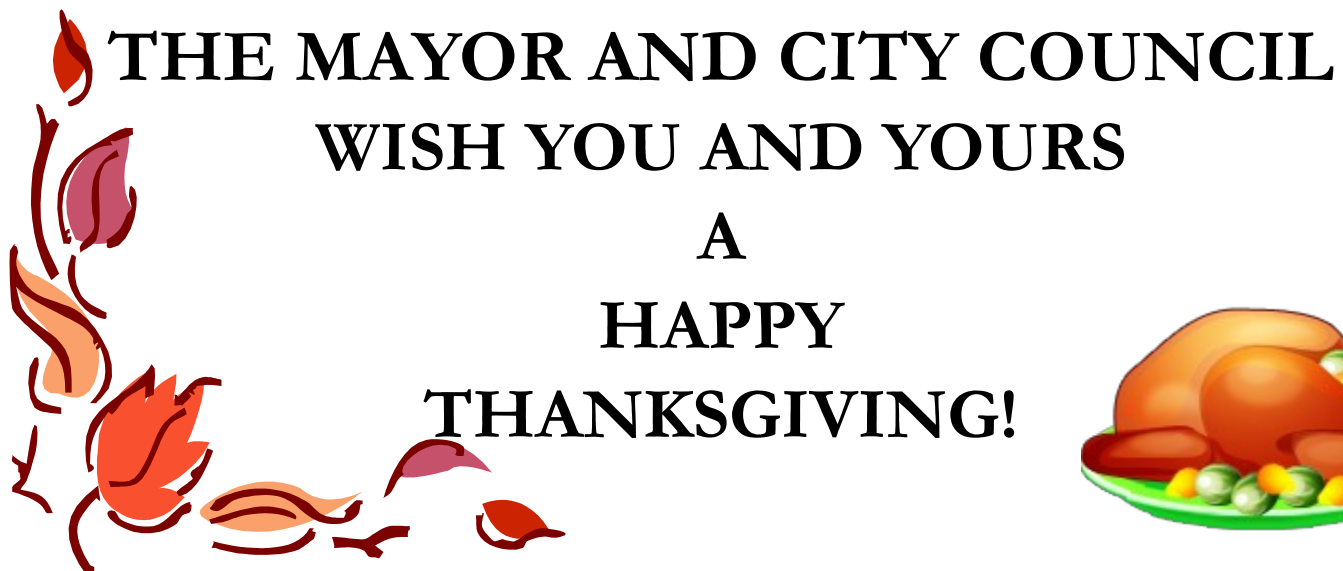
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## HOLIDAY SAFETY

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season is here! It's a time filled with happiness and celebration, but it can also be a time of danger. Unfortunately, there are criminals who use the holidays to target victims, people like you and me, who may be distracted. Shopping during this time can present unique dangers, but taking a few preventive steps may help keep you and others in the Seat Pleasant community safe.

1. Shop during daylight hours or take someone with you if you're out at night.
2. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry – leave it home.
3. Stay alert to your surroundings – stay off the phone as you walk to your car.
4. Be extra careful as you carry your wallet or purse - they are the prime targets of criminals.
5. Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. Many con-artists try different ways to distract you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Enjoy this special time of the year with your families! If you need any information or want us to discuss anything with the Seat Pleasant Police Department or Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, please email us at [cpac.seatpleasant@live.com](mailto:cpac.seatpleasant@live.com). Keep safe!





City of Seat Pleasant

*"A City of Excellence"*

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #235

**The 30th Annual Senior Citizens'  
THANKSGIVING DINNER**  
**Senior Citizens (60 and Older) No Exceptions**  
**NO CHILDREN PLEASE**  
**Sunday, November 21, 2010**  
**2:00 P.M.**

**at the**  
**Cedar Heights**  
**1200 Glen Willow Drive**  
**Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743**  
**SEVENTH ANNUAL HAT CONTEST**  
**Wear your must beautiful hat and win!**  
**WIN OTHER PRIZES**

**For more information call: Mrs. Feggans at 301-336-1184 or Mrs. Gillus at  
301-306-1793**

**Sponsored by**  
**THE SEVENTH COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT CONSTITUENT FUND COMMITTEE & THE**  
**KAPPA ALPHA PSI HYATTSVILLE LANDOVER CHAPTER**